

Rear Admiral Slates Bids Farewell to Navy Team

WELCOME TO THE fall 2015 issue of *Currents*. This will be my final column as the director of OPNAV N45. By the time this issue is in your hands, Rear Admiral Doug Morton will have taken over my position and I will have transitioned out of the Navy. Admiral Morton comes to N45 from the Office of the Defense Representative, Pakistan where he served as the Deputy for Security Cooperation. Prior to this assignment, he was the commander, Naval Facilities Engineering Command, Atlantic. I am confident that he will be just as impressed as I was with the professionalism and the quality of support he receives from the staff here at N45 and across the Fleet and System Commands on issues related to energy, environment, and compatibility.

I'd like to draw your attention, one last time, to some of the stories we have included in this issue of the magazine.

In our article "Office of Naval Research (ONR) Program Evaluates Emerging Energy Technologies," we introduce readers to the Energy Systems Technology and Evaluation Program recently launched by our ONR colleagues. The program is currently sponsoring 20 innovative, in-house government energy demonstration and validation projects, ranging from energy management to alternative energy and storage technologies, all of which are highlighted in this article.



Our friends at *National Defense* magazine were kind enough to let us republish an article authored by Vice Admiral Philip H. Cullom titled, "Being Energy Smart Creates More Combat Capability." A great article that gets to the very heart of why we've

focused so much on the importance of energy... $E = MC^2$ (energy is more combat capability). It's all about increasing our combat capability through greater distance, more time on station, and increased payloads.

In another feature story—"Pacific Northwest Growler Training Essential for 21st Century Battles"—we provide some insights into the essential need for EA-18G Growler pilot training and the Pacific Northwest's continuing role as our Navy-wide Growler homebasing and training location. Training with this aircraft is an essential piece of our nation's defense systems and is conducted, as always, in strict accordance with environmental compliance standards.

In our "Trends of the Environment" section, we alert you to a collaborative effort underway by U.S. Fleet Forces Command, Commander, Naval Surface Force Atlantic and Commander, Pacific Fleet to conduct waterfront energy conservation training. In our article "Fleet Forces Command, Pacific Fleet Partner to Conduct Energy Conservation Training," we profile the Ship Visit program which is designed to accelerate energy culture change throughout the Fleet and, ultimately, create a more effective and efficient Navy by bringing energy conservation



In the center spread in this issue, you will find one of our "Energy Warrior" posters which you can detach and hang on the wall in your office to help us promote this campaign and recognize October as Energy Action Month.

messages, approaches, lessons, and best practices to the waterfront via tailored ship visits.

Finally, in the center spread in this issue, you will find one of our “Energy Warrior” posters which you can detach and hang on the wall in your office to help us promote this campaign and recognize October as Energy Action Month. We’ve also provided you with some ideas to help you save energy at the office and in your home in our “2015 Energy Action Month Inspires Cultural & Behavioral Change Across the Globe” advertisement.

Over the last three years we’ve been able to accomplish a lot by working together and I’d like to briefly touch on three important areas.

or under our restricted airspace which raises potential national security concerns. This is an area we will have to continue to watch and develop processes to counter when there are national security implications.



Lastly, operational energy. We’ve been able to increase awareness and understanding that our operational energy program is about “capability,” not about being green or saving money which are also attractive secondary benefits. The real focus is and will continue to be about how we can more effectively use our energy to increase our operational capability. Whether it’s a

I’m proud of what we’ve been able to accomplish as a team over the last three years and look forward to seeing our great Navy continue to lead the way in the responsible use of energy, environmental stewardship, and sustainability.

First, environmental planning. We’ve successfully completed three of our five major at-sea environmental planning efforts to ensure that our Fleet is able to train and our new systems can be tested while minimizing impacts on the environment and marine mammals. We’ve also developed a standardized template for our National Environmental Policy Act actions that should reduce time as well as cost, and we will continue to look for opportunities along with our regulatory partners to streamline or improve the process.

Secondly, sustaining our ability to train and test to ensure that our Navy is ready to operate forward where and when it matters. We’ve put in place processes to quickly identify and address potential compatibility concerns, while increasing awareness and collaboration across the Navy. We support compatible development around these key areas, and have successfully been able to mitigate impacts by aggressively working with developers early on in the planning process. One item of growing concern is the potential threat posed by foreign-owned and controlled companies and their desire to co-locate near some of our most critical ranges

new technology that we are installing on a ship, or a revised operational procedure that allows us to do more with less fuel we need to be talking in terms of capability...additional days at sea, additional distance or endurance, or increased payload carrying capacity. Our “Energy Warrior” campaign focuses on just that and that is the message we are trying to convey to all Sailors along with seeking their input for innovative ideas of how we can do things differently to more efficiently use fuel.

I’m proud of what we’ve been able to accomplish as a team over the last three years and look forward to seeing our great Navy continue to lead the way in the responsible use of energy, environmental stewardship, and sustainability. I want to thank you one last time for your continued support during my tenure at N45, and for everything you will do to help Admiral Morton continue to advance our energy and environmental programs tomorrow and for years to come. ⚓

Rear Admiral Kevin R. Slates

Director, Chief of Naval Operation Energy and Environmental Readiness Division